



**Multi-Modal Transportation Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2013
3:00-4:30 PM
Room 623 – HR Training Room
City Hall**

Attending:

Commission Members: Bruce Emory, Jim Grode, Terri March, Leal Gray, Bob Roepnack, Kristy Carter, Mary Weber, Don Kostelec, Till Dohse.

Staff Members: Cathy Ball, Roderick Simmons, Mariate Echeverry, Martha McGlohon, Blake Esselstyn, Tristan Winkler, Janet GeorgeMurr.

Community Members: David Allen Wilson, David G. Nutter, Lyubov Zuyeva.

- Jim Grode welcomed commission members, staff and public to MMTC Meeting
- September 25, 2013 Agenda - approved
- August 28, 2013 Minutes - MMTC recommended summarizing the MMTC minutes.

After minor corrections, Till Dohse moved to approve the minutes of 8/25/13, Bruce Emory seconded and carried unanimously.

Public Comment I

- Lyubov Zuyeva of Land of Sky Regional Council announced State Bike Summit October 18, 19, 20, 2013 in Carrboro, NC. Don Kostelec, Barb Mee and Cathy Ball will be attending.

New Business:

- **MMTC Monthly Scheduling conflict** – after a group discussion: the following dates and venues have been changed:

- a. October 23, 2013 meeting will be held in the First Floor Conference Room of City from 3-4:30pm;
- b. Combining November & December meetings on 12/4/13 in Room 623 HR Training Room 3-4:30pm;
- c. Jim suggested waiting until more commissioners are in attendance before discussing time change of MMTC meeting.

- **Asheville Connector (STIP I2513) Bicycle and Pedestrian Workshop:** Scheduled on Thursday, 9/26/13 at Land of Sky Regional Council with DOT beginning at 2:30 after MPO Meeting.

- Bruce Emory updated the commissioners on the pre-meeting to the Asheville I-26 Connector Workshop that Marc Hunt arranged on Tuesday 9/24/13 to include Bruce, Mariate, Jan Davis, and Julie Mayfield.

The consensus from the pre-meeting is that there are two connected projects that Marc would like to see DOT included in the I-26 project: Summarizing:

1. Marc suggested a “bicyclist commuter trail” which would fall under the umbrella of greenways, but, more of a commuting facility than strictly a recreational facility. The commuter trail would go parallel to 240 starting at the Haywood Rd interchange and going N along 240; turning E along 240 crossing the river into downtown. It would depend on what configuration DOT chooses for the highway facility.
2. If DOT decides on alternative 3, which keeps 240 on the existing bridges then new construction for bike/ped facility.
3. If DOT chooses alternative 4 or some variation of alternative 4 where there are new bridges for 240 further N removing a lot of the traffic from the existing Bowen bridges leaving space on the existing bridges for bicycles and pedestrian facilities.
4. In addition to that facility - turning S along 240 going down to Haywood a discussion concerning the Smith Mill Creek Greenway which is proposed to run parallel to Patton Ave on the south side of Patton beginning at the 240 interchange and extending in the vicinity of Leicester Hwy. The idea would be to have two branches, one along Patton Avenue; and one along 240 that would merge and then cross the river into downtown.
5. The pre-meeting attendees agreed to go to DOT suggesting to include or part of incorporating those plans into one of the City’s official plans presumably the greenway master plan.
6. Cathy understanding is: if it is on a City adopted plan, a greenway, a bike, any kind of multi modal transportation, DOT will acquire ROW for the construction. If that crosses over the proposed alignment, DOT will either build an overpass or put a culvert underneath to run perpendicular to the new alignment. The key is to have DOT incorporate the plan that will parallel vehicular multi-use paths that are separate by some kind of controlled access.
7. The City has budgeted in a 5 year plan that would contribute with the construction.

8. Cathy –If the City brings some money to the table, DOT will look at that more favorably as being participation. The City has budgeted 1million dollars: in 2017- \$500,000; and in 2018 \$500,000.
9. Timing of the DOT's process and MM Plan: DOT is fine with using the Greenway Master Plan with revisions. The goal is to have the plan to Greenway Committee next month; and to MMTC with more conceptual information in January.
10. Smith Mill Creek plan to tie into I-26 project connector.
11. The whole corridor/system will show on the greenway plan including East side of the crossing and Broadway. The schedule for reviewing the revisions are: to Greenway Committee 10/10; to MMTC 10/23; to Council the first of November.
4. MPO is funding 80% of Multi-Modal Transportation Plan. Lyuba stated that the French Broad River MPO would hold the next call for STP-DA projects in late spring-early summer 2014; previous call for STP-DA projects was either in 2009 or in 2010, during ARRA Stimulus period.
5. At next MMTC meeting the greenway map will be projected for everyone to make recommendations.
6. Roderick stated in order to protect the City in the future when NCDOT makes improvements and/or developments, the updated Greenway Master Plan is strategic for that future planning and development in the next 15 to 20 years, showing the greenway corridors from I-26 to Weaverville City limits to South Asheville where I-26 and 240 cuts off.
7. A bike commuter corridor could be consistent with already an adopted DOT plan for Patton Ave.
8. DOT in Raleigh will make sure that Haywood Rd overpass is a complete street design. Cathy would like to verify with DOT the understanding of their concept in having wide sidewalks, bicycles on both sides.
9. Timing of the traffic signals should be an important factor in moving pedestrians and bicycles through large volume of traffic.
10. Cathy stated that the I-26 corridor that the City is considering would not require relocating houses which is a very important goal of the City. Depending on the 6 or 8 lanes proposed with the additional ROW acquisitions, it was made clear to DOT to work around the configuration in not relocating homes, especially at the intersection of Haywood Rd before the overpass into town back towards Carrier Park.
11. An historic home SE of Patton and 240 interchange that comes close to the DOT ROW to ask DOT to either decrease the standard with ROW for the interstate; or to make some variation so that it would not impact the historic home; or a retaining wall.
12. FHWA publication that has 11 different parameters for designing exceptions for interstate highways related to shoulder width, lane width, and median width and a good case study from Des Moines, Iowa. To locate publication go to Google and enter: FHWA interstate design exceptions.
13. An update on I-26 Connector workshop at next meeting.
14. Roderick stated the timeline of the adoption of the updated Greenway Master Plan as follows: To be reviewed on 10/10/13 to Greenway Committee; 10/23/13 to MMTC; then to Council in November.

● **Haywood Street Form-Based Code Charrette:** Jim stated that he attended a small group workshop relating to multi-modal transportation along with a number of MMTC members, Julie, Kristy, Don and Barb. The City is looking into implementing a form-based code for the Haywood Rd corridor in West Asheville that would prescribe the way in which you could build and how that would interact with multi-modal transportation.

- a. The code does not address transportation facilities but can make suggestions as to some design aspects of the road.
- b. The code could prescribe issues such as driveway cuts.
- c. Workshop was more of an informational and reality check session.
- c. The consultant from Austin, TX could see huge opportunities and huge problems with Haywood Rd from building to transportation.
- d. The consultant was talking in a language that fits with the City's CIP development: Year 1 to have the road paint markings; subsequent years to pick 3 intersections for curb extensions; to piece meal projects.
- e. The vision of land use is not realized without the transportation investments from the public sector to achieve the vision from Haywood Rd Bridge to Patton Avenue.
- f. A Video on COA website.
- g. Parking could play in a big role on the development patterns.
- h. Recommended for the interchange at I240 and Haywood Rd to not have the off ramps that lead into Haywood Rd.
- i. Advocating at the overpass that gets wider becomes more of an expansion to cross with amenities to improve the pedestrian environment.
- j. A draft of the code at the end of December.

● **Update on By-Laws and Rules of Procedure progress:** After a group discussion, the following recommendations:

1. To have a small subcommittee of MMTC members to review and make recommendations at the next 10/23 MMCTC meeting. Till, Jim, Julie and Mary volunteered to work with Martha.
2. If By-Laws and Rules of Procedure are acceptable with MMTC will be adopted at the next meeting.
4. A recommendation to add to the By-Laws the ability to create and/or appoint committees and/or subcommittees.

Old Business

● **Other Committees/Commissions Terms:** Martha stated that once the MMTC member's term on their respective commission or board ends, they are no longer considered a member of the MMTC.

● **City Council Liaison:** Council assigns the liaisons in December and MMTC will request this from Council.

● **Review of Parks and Greenways Foundation Maps:** Bob Roepnack presented to MMTC a brief history of the process of the map and projected the map on the screen which included greenways, biking trails, walking trails, parking and other amenities.

a. QR codes on the map to link to routes.

b. Changes will be from Buncombe County and City of Asheville and will be incorporated in the map.

c. Maps will be available at the next MMTC meeting.

d. 20,000 copies printed initially to be distributed to Chamber of Commerce, hotels, bike shops, festivals, real-estate agencies.

e. Maps will be 18x20 folded to fit 4x9 slots.

f. Suggestions from MMTC members to add to the map: public bathrooms; arrows to show hills, corresponding signage on the map; walk and run routes; a better color contrast, downtown routes; location of bike lockers; schools, bike lanes in historic areas.

● **Enlist a subcommittee to provide a display and attend Neighborhood Festival on 10/27/13 3-5pm:** Bob is requesting MMTC volunteers to have a table displayed at this festival. Bob gave a brief overview of the activities of the festival. Bob will send email to MMTC members to send to their respective committees. Till is planning to be at the festival to exchange ideas and concerns of the neighborhood.

Staff Updates

● **MMT plan timeline:** Mariate is working on the RFP to be released by mid-October; bids will go out for one month with due date of mid-November; one month to evaluate; mid-December to choose a preferred consultant; to Council in January; one year for developing the plan; by 1/2015 completion of the MMT plan, which is the CIP process beginning in January. Bruce suggests reviewing the RFP which was one of the expressed purposes of creating the MMTC; and assist the City in the development of the Multi-Modal Plan. Mariate will consult with Cathy if this procedure is appropriate for MMTC to review the RFP, which will delay the process for one month. Mariate stated that some members of MMTC will serve on the Steering Committee. There will be a selection committee, with representatives from a number of commissions; and since this RFP is State funded the MPO, NCDOT will be involved. Mariate suggested having a subcommittee from MMTC to be part of the evaluation committee. Mariate will update everyone at the next MMTC meeting

Project Update

List of Projects: Mariate will be speaking on only the updates from the project list:

1. Received several proposals for the RADTIP projects.
2. East of the River way Transportation Network Plan is going well. The consultant is scheduling a second public meeting and they want to come to MMTC for a presentation on updates and what is going to be presented at the public meeting. The consultants are requesting the presentation to MMTC on 10/23 and the public meeting is schedule on 10/24.
3. Signals Design Contract - the designs were received and staff is reviewing the designs. There are questions regarding the alignment and how they are interacting with existing sidewalks and facilities.
4. Charlotte Street Traffic Study – Ken will present to MMTC at next meeting. Mariate announced at the Greenway Committee meeting that staff is work on a proposal and will bring to MMTC.
5. Request from Councilman Gordon Smith at the Transit Committee to have staff look at Sunday service and also parts of the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) that was not implemented. Presenting alternatives of what is still needed; the cost for Sunday full or reduced service. The proposal will be presented to Transit Committee on October 1 and to MMTC in October.
6. Transit Committee is requesting to have all proposals analyzed before Council's January retreat in order to have a plan of action.
7. Mariate has contacted Public Works for a list of projects. PW is working on the Hendersonville sidewalk from I240 to Long Shoals and back with pedestrian facilities, cross walks and transit amenities.

Greenway Master Plan Amendments

Roderick stated that at the Greenway Commission retreat to prioritize the feasibility studies. The RFQ is out now and staff are working on how to process the prioritizing. It was decided to have Greenway Committee review first and then to MMTC.

Announcements

Blake announced that UNCA submitted a proposal for the Reed Creek and received one application that is being reviewed.

Meeting adjourned 4:30pm.